



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

SURGEON GENERAL GIVES “HEALTHY HARTFORD” NATIONAL RECOGNITION

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(December 10, 2008)--- The City of Hartford is known for hosting championship basketball and now it can add the honor of “Champion Award” for its “Healthy Hartford” campaign. Mayor Eddie A. Perez is proud to announce that the preventive health care initiative, which is one of the goals of the Mayor’s Health Care Task Force, has received this prestigious national recognition today from the Acting U.S. Surgeon General. Rear Admiral Steven K. Galson, M.D. M.P.H., is crisscrossing the county as he promotes the “Healthy Youth for a Healthy Future” program and says “Healthy Hartford” helps set the standard in assisting youngsters make positive health, food, and exercise choices so that they grow up to be healthy adults.

Mayor Eddie A. Perez says, “This is a great day for Hartford because it is a healthy day for Hartford. Earlier this year, I asked the task force to address the needs of the City’s 29,000 uninsured residents, find ways to prevent chronic illnesses, and get folks engaged with a medical home so that emergency rooms are not their source of health services. By doing so, we found that Hartford runs a higher risk of heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. Prevention can help reverse this trend if we can get our youngsters to make positive health choices at an early age.”

Statistics show that obesity is the leading cause of health problems for Hartford kids. 50-percent of the City’s 11-year-olds are at risk of obesity as are 30-percent of 2-year-olds.

Mayor Perez says, “The U. S. Surgeon General is the nation’s “Top Doc” and is the voice when it comes to good health. So when he gives the “Healthy Hartford” campaign a clean bill of health that is saying something!”

“I am honored to have the opportunity to visit communities across the country, like Hartford, and meet first-hand with those actively engaged in finding ways to prevent childhood overweight and obesity,” says Galson, a Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service.

The Surgeon General presented the Champion Award at the City’s Department of Health and Human Services and thanked city leaders for promoting city-wide health fairs, physical activity through its “A Walk in the Park” program, and collaborating with area health care providers on increasing education and awareness.

Childhood weight problems are a serious health concern all across the country. Since 1980, obesity has more than doubled among children ages 2 to 5 and more than tripled among youth 6 to 19. Additional information on the Mayor’s Health Care Task Force can be found on www.hartford.gov. More information on the Surgeon General’s initiative can be found at <http://surgeongeneral.gov/obesityprevention.html>.